

REMARKS

The above-identified application is United States application serial number 10/767,528 filed on January 27, 2004. Claims 1-24 are pending in the application. Claims 1-24 are rejected.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-5, 7-13, 15-18, 20, 22, 23, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Young et al (U.S. Patent No. 6, 018,456) in view of Grouell et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5, 912,799). Applicants traverse the rejections and have amended various claims to further clarify distinctions between the claims and what is disclosed by Young in view of Grouell. Specifically, Claims 1-5 and 7 are patentable at least because Young in view of Grouell do not disclose "a backplane . . . comprising a plurality of slots, each slot configured to interchangeably receive a module selected from among a plurality of modules including power modules and multiple different function module types that perform different functions." The Examiner admits that, in Young, "the embodiment shown has cooling modules in the upper rear and the power supplies in the lower rear of the housing" (Pages 17-18, of Office Action dated 02/01/2006) but misconstrues a capability to support different configurations taught in Young et al in column 2, lines 1-15, by installing a different backplane, as equivalent to the claimed "slot configured to interchangeably receive" different module types. Furthermore, the Examiner offers an odd and unusual definition of a "slot" by stating, "[s]ince the applicant has not defined a special meaning for 'slot', the space (or cavity in the housing) that is used to fit these modules is interpreted as a 'slot'." However, no special meaning for 'slot' is needed since the slots are claimed specifically as being part of the backplane. As claimed ("a backplane . . . comprising a plurality of slots"), and as described in the specification, the only possible definition of a 'slot' is the plugs or connectors and associated positions on the backplane. Because the slots are claimed specifically as component parts of the backplane, any definition relating to a "space" or "cavity" in the "housing" is incomprehensible. Applicants respectfully point out that a "slot" is commonly defined with respect to a backplane or other structure into which modules can be connected and that any slot for one backplane is no longer the same slot for a different backplane.

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Furthermore, Young et al in column 2, lines 1-15, includes no disclosure of slots that can interchangeably receive different types of modules but only states that different system configurations are possible by using different backplanes in the system, which has always been true of any system.

Claims 9-13 and 15-16 are patentable at least because Young in view of Grouell do not disclose "each slot configured to interchangeably receive a module selected from among a plurality of modules including power modules and multiple different function module types adapted to perform multiple different functionalities."

Claims 17, 18, 20, 22, and 23 are patentable at least because Young in view of Grouell do not disclose "each slot configured to interchangeably receive a module selected from among a plurality of modules including power modules and multiple different function module types that perform different functions."

Claim 24 is patentable at least because Young in view of Grouell do not disclose "means for interchangeably inserting and holding the multiple performing means."

Claims 6, 14, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Young et al in view of Grouell et al as applied above, and further in view of Douston III et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,392,872). The claims are allowable on the basis of being dependent upon allowable claims.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Young et al in view of Grouell et al as applied above, and further in view of Larson et al. (U.S. Patent application 2004/025256 A1). The claims are allowable on the basis of being dependent upon allowable claims.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants believe Claims 1-24 are in form for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. No new matter has been added. In the event it would facilitate prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (949) 251-0250.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO, Central Number at (571) 273-8300 on the date shown below:

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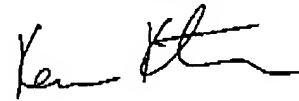
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May 1, 2006

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